

have a good view of the coast; this he did for us. We had seen Dover Castle plainly on the cliff for some time; now we could distinguish many other parts. In the distance the castle appeared to be old and decaying; so far as we could judge it seemed to be of high antiquity. Underneath lay the town, fairly large, but neither wealthy nor modern in appearance. There is a daily mail service between Dover and Calais, and since the Channel is only twenty-one English miles wide here, the same boat often crosses and recrosses in the same day. (60 English = 15 German miles.) A fog prevented our seeing the French coast. A great number of sea fowl of different kinds kept continually circling round our vessel, often resting on the masts and yards. At 1 P.M. we lost sight of Dover, and from this on the Channel kept on widening considerably. Soon we lost sight of France and then of England. We talked much that day about the happy lot of England, whom Nature would seem to have taken especial care in guarding her from every foe. Her high south coast is a mighty bulwark against the landing of invaders, and as long as she remains the mistress of the seas her people may rest in peace.

Although we had been promised by the captain that we would drop anchor in Spithead roads that evening, we were disappointed, being detained by contrary winds, and at 7 A.M. on the 26th we found ourselves opposite the coast of Wight. As the wind was dead off Portsmouth we were to go on tacking till 1 P.M. At 2 the wind shifted and at 7 we dropped anchor, after a four days' prosperous voyage from Cuxhaven. The "Union" and "Laurie" were with us the evening before, the rest, to our great delight, all arrived in on the 28th. As we were leaving for America the next day, soon, we made the most of our time seeing the sights of the town.

As a seaport the town is admirably situated, the harbor is large and well sheltered. On the north and east are the hills, on the other sides the Isle of Wight. The en-